

NSC BRIEFING

26 October 1954

POST-ELECTION TROUBLES IN HONDURAS

I. Stalemate in Honduras' 10 October national elections.

24 October "revision" of returns for disputed congressional seats, is source of trouble.

A. Elections, "revision" produced following results:

<u>Party</u>	<u>Presidential Candidate</u>	<u>Presidential Vote</u>	<u>Congressional Seats</u>
Liberals	Villeda Morales	48%	23
Nationalists	ex-dictator Carias	31%	22
Reformists	Abraham Williams	21%	<u>11</u>
			56

B. Unless new Congress selects president between 5 and 25 Dec., Supreme Court, composed of Carias proteges, gets job.

II. Violence may occur in meantime:

- Liberals claim fraud in 24 Oct. run-off where they lost all 28 contests, including opposition-controlled "recounts" on some of their "sure" seats.
- Liberals could boycott Congress, thus denying quorum necessary to install it on 5 December.
- Or could engage in localized violence--though apparently lack armed forces capable of coup.
- Reformists uncertain of maintaining party discipline in coalition with Nationalists and have strength in army--hence might attempt a coup.

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- E. Nationalists also strong in army and might attempt coup.
- F. Another possibility is that President Galvez may establish temporary dictatorship in attempt to solve impasse.

III. Communists may exploit Liberal party bitterness:

- A. Top Liberal leaders are anti-Communist and have promised to eradicate communist influence if they gain power.
- B. But Communists believed to have infiltrated lower Liberal Party echelons through their front group (Honduran Democratic Revolutionary Party).

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